

March 10, 2015

9 Lovelace Drive  
West Hartford, CT 06117

To: Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I strongly support the passage of the two Domestic Violence Bills (SB650, An Act Concerning Temporary Restraining Orders and HB 6848, An Act Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence) and the Safe Storage bill (HB6962, An Act Concerning Firearm Safety).

It is simply common sense that these bills are passed for the safety of the residents of Connecticut. The domestic violence bills will help to protect the abused and their families from additional tragedies. The facts are clear:

- Firearms accounted for the murder of 100 women in CT from 2002 to 2011.
- Access to a gun in an abusive relationship makes it five times more likely that the woman will be killed.
- The period immediately following a victim's application for a restraining order is the most dangerous time.
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A restraining order has been given because the individual has been deemed a dangerous already. Enabling (and I use that word intentionally) that individual to have access to a gun pours gasoline on a raging fire.

In addition, holding a person criminally negligent when anyone is injured or killed as a result of not storing the gun properly helps to enforce responsible gun ownership and will reduce access to guns by those looking to do harm, commit murder or suicide. When individuals know they can be charged with criminal negligence, many will make certain that the firearms are safely stored. Every life matters.

Thank you,

Deborah Lewis